

## **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

### **Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

Extension of the Alligator Hunting SeasonThe Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has historically set a 30-day Alligator Hunting Season beginning the last Wednesday of August in the east zone and the first Wednesday in September in the west zone. The Commission has authorized the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close, extend, delay, or reopen the season as biologically justifiable. Recognizing a desire to provide for additional opportunity for hunters and greater flexibility for tag holders, and that alligator harvest is strictly regulated based upon habitat and biological factors, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission took action to extend the alligator hunting season from 30 to 60 days at its May 7, 2020 meeting and published the Notice of Intent in the June edition of the Louisiana Register. However, that rule will not be final before the current 30-day season ends. The Secretary hereby exercises his authority to modify the season to be consistent with the intention of the Commission's action and extend the current season from 30 to 60 days.

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 49:953(H) which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to employ emergency procedures to promulgate rules and regulations relative to hunting seasons and all rules and regulations pursuant thereto, R.S. 56:115 and 56:259 which provide that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons and establish associated rules and regulations for hunting alligator, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries hereby adopts the following emergency rule amending the Alligator Hunting Season dates for the 2020 season:

#### **Title 76**

#### **WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

#### **Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds**

#### **Chapter 7. Alligators**

#### **§701. Alligator Regulations**

A - A.6.f.vii. ...

##### **7. Open Season, Open Areas, and Quotas**

##### **a. Open seasons are as follows.**

i. The state shall be divided into the east and west alligator hunting zones by the following boundary: beginning at the southwestern most part of Point Au Fer Island thence north along the western boundary of Terrebonne Parish to the Atchafalaya River, thence north along the Atchafalaya River to the East Atchafalaya Protection Levee, thence north along the East Atchafalaya Protection Levee, to Interstate 10, thence east along Interstate 10 to Interstate 12, thence east along Interstate 12 to Interstate 55, thence north along Interstate 55 to the Mississippi state line. The season for taking alligators in the wild shall open on the last Wednesday of August in the east zone and the first Wednesday of September in the west zone and will remain open for 60 days thereafter in each zone. The secretary shall be authorized to close, extend, delay, or reopen the season as biologically justifiable.

A.7.a.ii. - A.18.c. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115, R.S. 56:259, R.S. 56:262, R.S. 56:263 and R.S. 56:280.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:1070 (December 1990), amended LR 17:892 (September 1991),

LR 19:215 (February 1993), LR 20:321 (March 1994), LR 26:1492 (July 2000), LR 28:1996 (September 2002), LR 30:2338 (October 2004), LR 30:2878 (December 2004), LR 31:2267 (September 2005), LR 33:677 (April 2007), LR 35:690 (April 2009), LR 37:2421 (August 2011), LR 39:2291 (August 2013), LR 42:909 (June 2016), LR 43:90 (January 2017), LR 46:50 (January 2020), LR 46:

This Emergency Rule shall become effective September 20, 2020, and remain in effect for the duration of the 2020 Alligator Hunting Season, or until adoption of a final rule modifying the Alligator Hunting Season from 30 to 60 days, whichever occurs first.

Jack Montoucet  
Secretary

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